

Dear all,

We have a date for our first meeting of the new season: **Sunday, February 28 from 9:45-10:45 in the Conference Room.** If you cannot attend but would like to contribute to this process, please be in touch with comments and suggestions.

**Here are a few agenda items. Please suggest others.** We will have to be very efficient to get to all of them...! Especially regarding the task group items, be thinking which ones might be of interest to you.

- Review last year, celebrate our incredible progress
- Recommend any changes to policy or practice
- Discuss what needs to be done to get ready for opening day on April 15, such as signage, marking out the beds, topping beds with mulch and compost, mulching bare earth, ???
- Schedule work days and any "opening day" activities
- I've applied for Mission Endowment funds for seating, fruit trees and beehive fencing (for Peter's hives). If approved, we will need to form task groups to make the necessary decisions and organize installation.
- Discuss potential topics for educational events/learning labs for 2016. What are we able to teach? What do we want to learn? *See below for events already on the calendar and help spread the word!*
- Gardener communications - Newsletter? Gardening blog? Regular or irregular gatherings? This might be something for another task group.

**FYI:**

- Copies of the Garden Registration form, Covenant, and Organic Guidelines are available in the Narthex and on the Community Garden page of the church website. Last year's gardeners who used the raised beds can opt for the same space. Those of you who gardened at ground level in the temporary beds will be glad to know the soil from your beds was transferred to the new raised beds.
- The Iona Spiritual Growth Group is taking on leadership of labyrinth-related activities.

**Upcoming educational opportunities at St. Thomas:**

**February 27 Seed-Saving 101** 9:00 AM-Noon in Rm.16/17. Led by Roger Hartwell. Free. NOTE: We need a few volunteers who could also attend the workshop: Greeters, someone to set up and tend the coffee pot and pumpkin bread during the break; someone to tend a hands-on seed-saving table, also during break.

**March 12 Gardening Basics** 10:00 AM-Noon in the Conference Room. Led by Marie Fleming. Free. Watch for details in the March newsletter. NOTE: if any of you would like to come as resident experts or just as a more experienced gardener, your presence will be greatly appreciated!

**April 16 Small Space Gardening and Plant Selection** 9-Noon. Led by Roger Hartwell. Free.

**April Sunday (watch newsletter for the date) "Beekeeping "Adult Forum** 9:45-10:45. Led by Peter Iversen.

Soon,

Marie

